(a) whether representations requesting Government to currect the names of drought prone districts of Gujarat have been received;

(b) if so, what are the names of drought prone districts in Gujarat; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to provide relief to these drought prone districts of the State under Drought Prone Area Programme and other schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The Department of Land Resource has informed that no representation has been received by them in this regard. According to them, Amreli, Ahmedabad, Bharuch, Bhavnagar, Dang, Junagarh, Panchmahal, Sabarkantha, Vadodara and Valsad districts in the State are at present under coverage of the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP). 449 watershed projects were sanctioned in the DPAP districts in the State since 1995-96 and are under various stages of implementation. Rs.33.62 crore has so far been released as Central share towards cost of this project. 230 new watershed projects have also been sanctioned to these DPAP districts during 1999-2000 and the first instalment of Rs.3.45 crore has also been released.

Agricultural development in North-Eastern States

1551. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any plan and programme for all round development of agriculture in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, what is present status of these plans and programmes; and

(c) how far these plans and programmes have really benefited the people of North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the present schematic and programme based system, the Government is providing Central assistance to the North Eastern States under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes/programmes/projects. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is earmarking 10 per cent of the total plan funds for the North Eastern region. A non-lapsable central pool of resources for this

region has been created with a view to strengthening and expanding infrastructural net work. A Technology Mission on Horticulture is proposed to be set up boost horticulture production in the region.

(c) Farmers from N.E. States have been benefited directly and indirectly from the schemes/programmes. To achieve sound and sustainable agricultural development, efforts have been made in the areas of soil conservation, shifting cultivation and dryland farming in rainfed areas. During the last five years, under the scheme "Watershed development in shifting cultivation Areas", 1,38,646 ha. of land has been treated. Similarly, under the National. Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Areas Project, an area of 1,96,672 ha. has been developed. During the same period, 80 cooperative societies were sanctioned Rs.196.93 lakh for marketing and processing of horticultural crops.

Milk Production in Maharasthra

1552. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is the second largest producer of milk in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, year-wise *vis-a-vis* other States of the country; and

(c) steps, Government propose to take to further improve the milk production in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUTULRE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Animal Husbandry is a State subject. However, in order to supplement the efforts of the State Government of Maharashtra for increasing milk production, Central Government is implementing various Central Sector/ Centrally Sponsored schemes in the State. Some of the Schemes are as follows:

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-Operation Flood, Hilly and Backward Districts.